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In undertaking to fill this vacant field, we promise that with all the power given us we will endeavor to lead those whom we may influence, to the perception of the Highest Beauty, or at least, to the distinguishing the difference between that which is beautiful and that which seems so; and to prefer that which is true and earnest, to that which is only powerful or attractive by display of superficial excellence.

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NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

From Putnam's Magazine.

THE CRAYON.—The first number of this long-promised, and, as we believe, anxiously looked for Art Journal, was published on the 1st January. We regret that the early day on which we are obliged to go to press, will postpone the utterance of our New Year's welcome to the handsome stranger, until the first of March, when several numbers will have been issued, and judged by the public. But we will say our "say" nevertheless, and let our good intentions make amends.

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From the Independent.

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The Journal of Commerce.

THE CRAYON.—The new weekly paper, to be devoted to Art, which we announced a short time since, has already made its appearance. The first number, is highly creditable to its conductors—Messrs. Stillman & Durand. The article entitled "Landscape Element in American Poetry" presents a charming analysis of some of the more beautiful passages in the writings of Bryant—those which peculiarly illustrate the poet's perception of the influences of external nature. The letter on Landscape Painting, by Mr. Durand, contains many valuable suggestions to young students of art, and gives promise that the series of which it is a part will be of great practical utility. The paper is a neatly printed quarto, containing sixteen pages.

The Evening Post.

THE CRAYON has made its appearance. This first number is a clever one. Durand, the painter, contributes the first of a series of "Letters on Landscape Painting," which we are sure will prove valuable to the student in that department of art, and interesting to the general reader. There is a poem by Lowell, entitled "August Afternoon," a capital piece of Flemish painting in words. The life and experiences of Haydon furnish matter for an excellent article on the great and fatal mistake under which that artist labored in placing the standard of high art aloof from common things, the dignity and beauty of which appear to have escaped him. The notices of new works are well done, and near the end of the number is a department with the title of "Sketchings," into which are thrown notices of various miscellaneous matters, having relation to the arts of design. It is not often that a periodical makes its appearance with so fair a promise of excellence as this.

Le Courrier des Etats Unis.

UN NOUVEAU JOURNAL ARTISTIQUE.—Nous voyons toujours avec intérêt se manifester à New York quelque nouveau symptôme d'une tendance artistique, et nos encouragements ne manqueront jamais aux hommes de foi qui entreprennent la tâche méritoire d'ouvrir la voie au sentiment du beau dans un pays où l'entraînement général enferme les esprits dans la poursuite du bien-être. Aussi, est-ce avec plaisir que nous annonçons la publication d'un nouveau journal, "THE CRAYON," dont le titre annonce suffisamment la nature. Le premier numéro qui doit faire son apparition le 3 janvier prochain, est en ce moment sous nos yeux, et mieux que nous ne pourrions le faire dans une brève analyse, explique son objet et ses espérances.

Albany Evening Journal.

THE CRAYON is the appropriate title of a new weekly paper in New York, to be devoted to the Arts of Design and matters of taste connected with them. It is not intended as a mere journal for professional artists and amateurs, but for popular circulation. It is conducted by Messrs. STILLMAN and DURAND, both of whom are well qualified for the task. The first number—a handsomely printed sheet—gives evidence of discriminating taste, and literary ability that we are sure will make it entertaining to its readers, and we hope will make it profitable to its conductors.

Dwight's Musical Journal.

A NEW ART JOURNAL.—We have read with the greatest interest, omitting nothing, the first five numbers of "THE CRAYON," a weekly journal devoted to "the Graphic Arts," and the Beautiful in all its forms. It hails from New York, W. J. STILLMAN and J. DURAND, editors and proprietors. The numbers wear a most aesthetic aspect, and contain each sixteen pages of good matter. We cannot commend it too warmly to the support of all lovers of the Beautiful. Its tone is pure and elevated; its criticisms candid, courteous and instructive. Such artists as A. B. Durand and Page contribute of their wisdom to its pages, and such poets as Bryant and Lowell of their freshest inspirations. The best taste presides over its selections. We are prompted to say much more, had we room.

The Christian Intelligencer.

"THE CRAYON.—There was room for such a periodical—in truth, it was greatly needed; and, if the conductors of THE CRAYON continue the ability and impartiality so far manifested, their enterprise must succeed. Their journal is well printed on good paper, and abounds in matter not easily met in any other form."

The Home Journal.

"From Poetry to the Arts is an easy transition, and we were preparing our pronouns and punctuations for a strong paragraph of welcome to a new periodical, THE CRAYON, when it occurred to us that it had already been better done by Bryant, in the Post, and to copy that in preference, would be both kinder to THE CRAYON and wiser for 'we'—"

"We shall keep an open eye for the first numbers of THE CRAYON, and do all in our power to promote its civilizing influences."

The Christian Inquirer.

The first five numbers of this promising (and thus far performing) paper are now out. We look for its weekly issue with high and never disappointed expectation. Its leaders are *headed* in a double sense—weighty with thought as well as with typographical distinctness. They carry, *metaphorically*, we are much impressed with the seriousness and instructive aim of the editorial columns. Manifestly it is not to tickle the ear or please the fancy, but to enlighten the mind and improve the taste, that the leading article always aims. The writer has a real, well-considered, distinct, and decisive thought to convey to his readers' minds, and he goes about it patiently, unambitiously, and earnestly, and succeeds not in winning our admiration—a poor victory—but in leaving us wiser than he found us.

The Crayon has, we hope, a special mission—to purge and soberize the style of our journalizing, as well as the taste of our people in general. The heated, gaseous, and scintillating style of our public press, is becoming intolerable. The Crayon uses a cool, quiet and unobtrusive style, which is truly refreshing.

We notice, too, that its contributors give us observations at first hand; describe what they have seen, report what they know; which is original in more senses than one.

If we may be pardoned a poor pun, for the sincerity of the wish it conveys, we will say, may the Crayon draw!

The Courier and Enquirer.

An early copy enables us to assure those who have subscribed for the paper, that their reasonable expectations will be surpassed by the ability and high tone which this number displays. The principal articles are the first of a series of letters upon Landscape Painting from Mr. Durand, N. A.; an essay upon the Landscape Element of American Poetry; criticisms upon Scheffer's "Temptation," and Brown's "Washington," and a fine appreciation of Haydon's Autobiography. All these have not only the merit of justness of view directed by knowledge, but are eminently readable, while they are at the same time high in tone. THE CRAYON is a publication that ought to live.

New York Observer.

It will not be denied that the popular mind of our country greatly needs a much higher degree of artistic taste than is now prevalent; and the instruction, necessary to achieve such a result, must not be such as is given in the studio, or the school—the graceful teacher must descend below the capacities of her more select and favored disciples, to instruct the numerous class of those less fortunate in artistic gifts. Art-lectures are highly beneficial; but as a medium of reaching the minds of the people, there is nothing so successful as the printed periodical. We therefore welcome the appearance of this new journal, and wish it success in its delightful mission.

Cincinnati Gazette.

We have already strongly recommended THE CRAYON and every succeeding number proves it to be more and more worthy of all we have said in its praise. No journal, devoted to Art, has ever been so ably conducted, in this country; and if it meets with the support it so richly deserves, we have no doubt that it will exert a most wholesome influence upon the taste of the country.

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